

Application/Control Number : 10/698,512
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Remarks.

Status of the Claims

Prior to this amendment, claims 1-14 were pending in the application. In order to overcome the Examiner's objections, a new set of claims is hereby submitted. While drafting the new claims, care has been taken not to introduce new matter.

More in detail, to further the prosecution of the present application, claim 1 has been amended, claim 2 has been canceled, claims 3, 4, 5, 6 and 10 have been made dependent on claim 1. Finally, a new independent claim (claim 15) has been introduced.

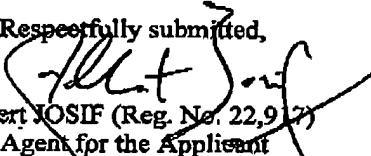
Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 1 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Whited et al., while claim 13 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Whited et al. in view of Steinheimer.

On the other hand, Applicant appreciates that Claims 2-11 and 14 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but that they would be allowable if rewritten in independent from including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Therefore, to better distinguish the invention from the prior art and in accordance with the Examiner's indications, claim 1 has been amended to include all the features originally recited in claim 2. Moreover, new independent claim 15 has been introduced, which claim includes all the limitations of original claims 1, 13 and 14.

It will be noted that a sincere effort has been made to positively respond to all of the points raised by the Examiner. The new claims are therefore believed to be in an allowable condition and a notice to this effect is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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